

NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service Nebraska Field Office • Lincoln, Nebraska



Media Contact: Mark Harris (402) 437-5541

E-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov

NEBRASKA'S MARCH 1, 2007 PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Lincoln, Neb., March 30, 2007 -- Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage devoted to corn, hay, and winter wheat (sown last fall), and decrease acreage planted to soybeans, sorghum, oats, dry edible beans, sugarbeets, and sunflowers, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Nebraska Field Office.

Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 9.0 million acres for all purposes in 2007, up 11 percent from last year and the largest planted area since 1936.

Soybean growers intend to plant 4.4 million acres, down 13 percent from last year.

Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.95 million acres, up 8 percent from a year earlier and up 5 percent from two years ago.

Sorghum growers expect to plant 260,000 acres, 30 percent less than 2006 and the smallest planted area since 1932.

Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 100,000 acres, down 29 percent from a year earlier and equaling the smallest planted area since 1972. Sunflower planting intentions, at 30,000 acres, are down 43 percent from last year and are the lowest since the series began in 1991.

Hay acreage for harvest, at 3.0 million, would be up 7 percent from last year. Oat planting intentions, at 125,000 acres, are down 22 percent from 2006. Sugarbeet plantings of 53,000 acres would be down 14 percent from a year ago.

These acreage estimates are based on surveys conducted the first two weeks of March. This report is intended to assist growers in finalizing their acreage plans for 2007. Actual area planted may vary from that indicated due to farmer's final assessment of planting options, effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in price expectations for the coming crop year.

Access the National publication for this release at: http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/ProsPlan-03-30-2007.pdf

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